Reviewer’s report

Title: In vitro evaluation of methicillin-resistant and methicillin-sensitive Staphylococcus aureus susceptibility to Saudi honeys

Version: 0 Date: 11 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Juraj Majtan

Reviewer's report:

Submitted manuscript entitled "In-vitro evaluation of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus susceptibility to Saudi honeys" has focused on characterisation of antibacterial potential of eleven Saudi honey samples and well-known Manuka honey.

Some major issues:

1. Authors decided to carry out the agar-well diffusion method for initial testing of antibacterial potential of all honey samples. They used positive control vancomycin. Why the authors decide to use any positive control? For what purpose? Authors do not use phenol as used for Manuka honey testing. Authors simply measured the zone of inhibition with no relation to vancomycin efficacy. In addition, this technique is not suitable for honey, and authors also describes all limitations of this method in their manuscript. It is not suitable method for complicated matrix as honey is.

2. Authors selected just one Saudi honey for further research and determine the MIC value by micro-broth dilution method. The methodology for determination of MIC is confused and not well written or carried out. Authors did not provide information about the final volume in the wells in the plate, what type of plate they used and conditions (stationary vs. shaken)

I strongly suggest to test all samples by microdilution method because is more appropriate than agar well diffusion method.

3. It is quite weird that all human SA isolates showed same sensitivity to one honey sample. There were no differences in antibacterial activity of each honey against different SA isolates. Authors stated that they used honey dilution (1-20%). What increment was used? 1% or 5%.

4. Both figures should be removed because you doubled the data. All data shown in both figures are present in Table 2 and 3. No redundancy is allowed.
5. English language needs to be checked by English native speaker. There are numbers of typographical errors.

Overall, submitted ms does not bring any new information. It has low scientific value.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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